

Information Security Assessment (ISA) Express

@copyright 2005

What is the difference between an assessment and audit?

ISA Express Information Assurance Methodology (IAM) is an assessment not an audit, inspection or certification.

The difference between an assessment and an audit, inspection or certification is “**the overall goal of the process**”.

- The overall goal of an **audit, inspection or certification** is to check for compliancy. Often audits, inspections or certifications uncover consequences for failure.
- The overall goal of an **assessment** is to provide assistance for the improvement of security posture. Assessments are a valuable tool used in preparation for an audit, inspection or certification. Many organizations are discovering periodic security assessments represent a good way to perform security preventive maintenance and can be use it to validate security readiness.

ISA Express allows an organization to work on meeting security goals or compliance requirements in a friendly and cooperative environment. There is no competition, no worry about job attrition or pointing fingers of who is at fault.

What is included in the **ISA Express**?

The **ISA Express** includes the following three phases supplemented with on-going maintenance:

1. **Pre-Assessment:** The initial on-site visit defines the scope and goals of the engagement. A documented Tactical Assessment Plan (TAP) clearly outlines the entire project schedule, areas of concentration, resources required, roles and responsibilities, communication processes and specific deliverables.
2. **Assessment:** Based upon the schedule established in the TAP. IIS consultants perform the on-site scanning of the network and review of its associated documentation and physical layout.
3. **Post-Assessment:** All of the information collected during the assessment phase is collected and analyzed. Recommendations are made based on these and specific industry regulatory and compliancy issues. A final report is prepared and presented to the management team.

On-going Maintenance: Optional on-going maintenance enables monitoring of an organization’s security processes and procedures. It provides periodic reviews of progress made in the implementation of the recommendations and information on the latest upgrades and patches.

Information Security